# REDUCING ENERGY USE AT HOME

The average household in Idaho uses between 8,500 and 9,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy every year. Appliances such as refrigerators, spas, freezers and clothes dryers use the most electricity in the home. Heating and cooling also use quite a bit of energy. In the eastern part of the state (Twin Falls, Pocatello and Idaho Falls), the average home spends close to \$700 each year on energy. In the western part of the state (Boise, Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene), the average home spends more than \$1,000 on energy.

#### **ELECTRICITY USE AT HOME**

#### **ELECTRICITY USE BY APPLIANCE**

6%			kWh/HOUSEHOLD
8%		APPLIANCES	PER YEAR
17%		POOL/HOT TUB/SPA	2,300
	APPLIANCES (26%)	WATERBED HEATER	1,286
	HEATING (26%)	FREEZER	1,110
	☐ AIR CONDITIONING (17%)	CLOTHES DRYER	1,090
	☐ WATER HEATING (17%)	SWIMMING POOL PUMP	792
	REFRIGERATORS (8%)	LARGE AQUARIUM	548
		COOKING	451
	LIGHTING (6%)	DISHWASHER	410
17%		FURNACE	398
17% 26%		PERSONAL COMPUTER	317
		COLOR TV	307
		OTHER	1.223

SOURCE: ENERGY INFORMATION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NOTE: PERCENT OF ENERGY USE FOR APPLIANCES WILL VARY DEPENDING ON HOUSEHOLD. IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH A POOL, FREEZER AND WATERBED, APPLIANCES MAY ACCOUNT FOR UP TO 46% OF ENERGY USE.

### **HOW TO CONSERVE ENERGY AT HOME**

- ➤ Pools, hot tubs and spas use large amounts of electricity. You can make them more efficient through proper insulation and maintenance, or by turning down the thermostat and using a tight-fitting, well-insulated cover when not in use.
- ➤ Your local hardware store should carry energy-saving devices such as thermostat timers, energy-efficient light bulbs, weather stripping and insulation.
- Large savings can come from reducing heating costs. Consider improving your insulation, lowering your thermostat, not heating unoccupied rooms and installing a thermostat timer.
- Appliances operate at higher efficiencies when properly maintained. Make sure to clean or replace filters and follow other manufacturer recommended maintenance procedures.
- ➤ Plant a tree. A well-positioned tree can provide shade in the summer and lower air-conditioning costs. That same tree can serve as a windbreak in the winter and help to lower heating costs. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that as few as three trees in the right spots can save the average home between \$100 and \$250 in energy costs each year.

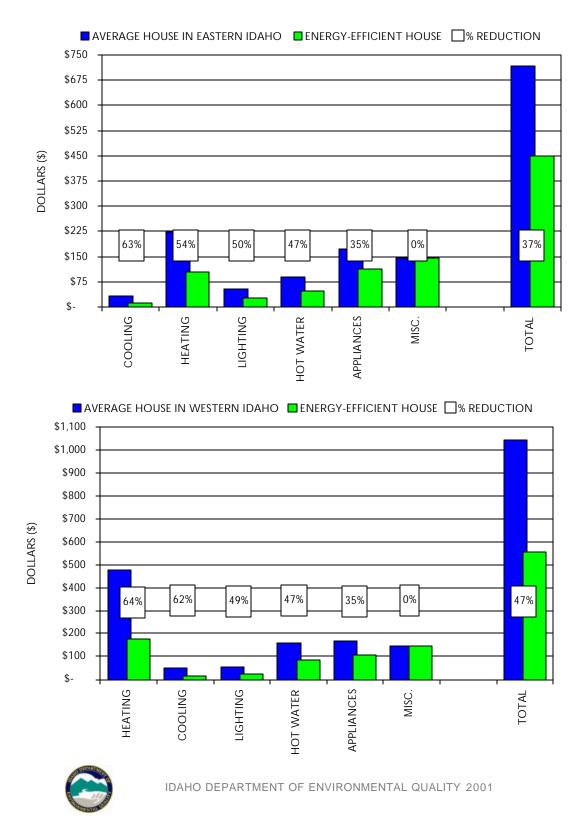


### HOW MUCH ENERGY CAN THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SAVE?

With some modifications, that home in Pocatello or Lewiston can reduce its energy use considerably by between 37% to 47%. Many modifications – such as such as installing a more energy-efficient dishwasher or washing machine – can result in water savings, too.

# COST SAVINGS FROM USING ENERGY-SAVING MEASURES IN THE HOME

SOURCE: EPA SAVINGS CALCULATOR: HOMEENERGYSAVER.LBL.GOV



# **MORE INFORMATION**

Several web sites offer information and tools such as Energy Calculators that can help you improve energy efficiency in your home and compare your energy spending to an energy-efficient home in your area.

Home Improvement Tool www.epa.gov/hhiptool Savings Calculator homeenergysaver.lbl.gov

ORGANIZATION	PHONE	WEB SITE
ID DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	(208) 373-0502	WWW.deq.STATE.ID.US
IDAHO POWER	(800) 488-6151	WWW.IDAHOPOWER.COM
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	(208) 378-5756	WWW.EPA.GOV
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES	(208) 327-7900	WWW.IDWR.STATE.ID.US
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	(800) DIAL-DOE	WWW.DOE.GOV
ENERGY IDEAS		WWW.ENERGYIDEAS.ORG
NORTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE		WWW.NWALLIANCE.ORG
ENERGY STAR (EPA/DOE PROGRAM)		WWW.ENERGYSTAR.GOV

